

Amendment to the Specification

Please amend the following paragraphs [0001], [0003], [0005], [0006], [0007], [0008], [0009], [0012], [0014], [0015], [0016], [0017], [0021], [0022], [0023], [0024], [0025], [0026], [0027], [0028], [0029], [0030], [0031], [0032], [0034], [0035], [0036], [0037], [0038], [0039], [0040], [0041], [0042], [0043], [0044], [0045], [0046], [0047], [0049], [0052], [0053], [0054], [0055], [0056], [0059] in the specification as follows:

[0001] This application is based on Japanese Patent Application serial No. 2003-110145, filed in the Japan Patent Office on April 15, 2003, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0003] This invention relates to a heating device having a substantially rod-shaped body and for supplying heat from one end of the body to an outside thing, and the invention is useful ~~for~~ as a heating device which is required to be compact in size. ~~In other another aspect~~ More particularly, this invention pertains to an electric soldering device including the heating device as mentioned above or a hand-held tweezer type device having two legs with each leg having the heating device as mentioned above, and for heating and ~~reflowing~~ melting solder at joints between ~~the~~ an electric or electronic part and the substrate and for installing and/or removing the electric or electronic part on or from a substrate.

[0005] Known is a heating device which has a substantially rod-shaped body and is arranged to supply heat from ~~an~~ a free end of the body to an outside thing, such as an electric part soldered on a substrate, such as a printed circuit board. The known device includes a heat generating section electrically energized to generate heat and a temperature sensor for detecting the temperature at the free end which is being heated by the heat generating section. An example of such a heating device is shown in Figure 9, which is a ~~fragmentary~~ cross-sectional view of a tip portion 100 of a soldering iron ~~as an example of the heating device~~. With reference to the Figure, the left side end of the tip portion 100 is the free end through which heat is supplied to an electric part. A heater core 143 is provided within the tip portion at its radial center, and a heating coil 141 is wound around the heater core 143. A temperature sensor 152 is located closer to the free end than the heater core 143. ~~Those~~ The heater core 143, heating coil 141 and

temperature sensor 152 are embedded in and covered by a ceramic cover 145. A tip 100 of heat conductive metal material including copper or silver, as its main material is provided outside of the ceramic cover 145 and is fixed thereto by fixing ceramic 147. The tip 100 extends to the free end and is plated with a thin iron layer on its outer surface for protection from erosion.

[0006] The known heating device mentioned above has a structure such that the tip 100 is formed with a cavity for accommodating therein the heating coil 141 and the temperature sensor 152. Being accommodated within the tip 100, the coil 141 and the temperature sensor 152 are necessarily arranged close to each other. A Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2001-121260 discloses an example of such an arrangement illustrating that a heating coil and a temperature sensor are arranged close to each other within a cavity formed in a tip for a soldering iron.

[0007] The conventional soldering iron has a problem in that the temperature at the tip will not restore sufficiently when soldering operations are made successively at short intervals. Accordingly, it is necessary to set intervals relatively large for ensuring desired soldering, which is one of factors to impede improvement in efficiency of soldering operations. This problem will be described in more detail with reference to Figure 10, which shows a temperature characteristic of the known device at the tip 104 at the time of the successive soldering. Figure 10A and Figure 10B show ~~[[the]]~~ temperature characteristics in the successive soldering operations respectively at intervals of three seconds and one second, with the ~~abseissa~~ x-axis showing elapsed time and the y-axis ~~ordinate~~ showing temperature.

[0008] Referring to Figure 10A showing a temperature characteristic T21, the temperature is maintained at 400°C for about 100 seconds from the beginning, and after about 230 seconds thereon. During that time ~~periods~~ period, no soldering operation is made. For the period from about 100 seconds to 230 seconds, the temperature oscillates with a large amplitude to show that the soldering operation is made successively. ~~The one~~ Each cycle of oscillation ~~represent~~ represents a single soldering operation. As seen in the Figure 10A, when a soldering operation is made, the temperature at the tip ~~temporary~~ temporarily drops by about 100°C since heat is supplied to solder. The temperature drop is detected by the temperature sensor 12, which in turn causes an ~~to~~ increase in the power supply to the heating coil 141 by a control section (not shown). As ~~the~~ a result, the ~~temperatures~~ temperature at the tip tends to increase and restore

such that the temperature is maintained at a desired level. However, when the soldering is repeated at intervals of one second, the temperature does not restore to a desired ~~level~~ level as shown by temperature characteristic T22 in Figure 10B. This is because ~~next~~ the subsequent soldering operation is started before the temperature restores to its initial level. This phenomenon is likely to occur especially when the tip 104 is relatively small.

[0009] The tip of the soldering iron must be heated above a given level to ensure sufficient soldering. In ~~the~~ successive soldering operations, intervals of the successive soldering should be enough for the temperature at the tip to restore to a desired level. Accordingly, it is desired ~~has been required~~ that the temperature restoring characteristic ~~is~~ be improved and the intervals for the restoration of the temperature at the tip is ~~made short~~ shortened, thereby improving the efficiency of the successive soldering operation. Such ~~requirement~~ ~~[[was]]~~ improvement is significant where the tip is relatively small in size.

[0012] It is a further object of the present invention to provide a compact type heating device which is efficient in successive soldering operations.

[0014] It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a tweezer type hand-held electric part handling device for efficiently installing and/or removing electric ~~part~~ parts on or from a substrate.

[0015] It is yet a further object of the present invention to provide a tweezer type hand-held electric part handling device having an improved temperature control arrangement for the control of the tip temperature.

[0016] To attain one or more of the above-mentioned objects, an electric heating device having a substantially rod-shaped body ~~and~~ for applying heat from an end portion of the body to an outside material~~[[,]]~~ ~~comprises~~ comprising a heat generating member which is electrically energized to generate heat for heating the end portion of the body, and a temperature sensor for detecting the temperature at the end portion, the temperature sensor being located distant from the heat generating member in the longitudinal direction of the body is disclosed.

[0017] According to an aspect of an embodiment of the present invention, the temperature sensor is located in a forward portion of the body~~[[,]]~~ and the heat generating member includes a heater core of high heat conductive material, ~~and~~ in addition to a heating coil wound around the

heater core, and Heat is conducted through the heater core in the longitudinal direction of the body from the heat generating member to the end portion of the body.

[0020] The above and other features, objects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from reading of the following description of a preferred embodiment with reference to the following drawings.

[0021] Figures FIGS. 1A and 1B are ~~front elevations showing~~ side views of ~~external appearances~~ of a hand-held tweezer-type device according to an embodiment of the present invention, the device being in a condition biased to ~~close~~ open the legs and wherein Figures FIG. 1A shows a free condition of the device and Figures FIG. 1B shows an-operated condition of the same. [[:]]

[0022] Figures FIGS. 2A and 2B show internal configuration of the hand-held device shown in Figures FIGS. 1A and 1B, the device being in a free condition, and wherein Figures FIG. 2A shows the normal condition where the legs are biased in ~~[[a]]~~ an opening direction, and Figures FIG. 2B shows the condition where the legs are biased in a closing direction. [[:]]

[0023] Figures FIGS. 3A, 3B and 3C are views of ~~show~~ a leg ~~portion~~ of the hand-held device, wherein Figures FIG. 3A is a front elevation view, Figures FIG. 3B is a ~~plane~~ plan view and Figures FIG. 3C is a left-side view of the leg. [[:]]

[0024] Figures FIGS. 4A and 4B are cross-sectional views of the leg, wherein Figures FIG. 4A is a cross-section taken along IV-IV of Figures FIG. 3B, and Figures FIG. 4B is a fragmentary enlarged cross-section of an end portion of the leg [[:]]

[0025] Figures FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of the leg taken along V-V of Figures FIG. 3A. [[:]]

[0026] Figures FIGS. 6A and 6B are graphs which show temperature variation characteristics of a soldering tip of ~~the embodiment~~ the device of FIG. 1A in successive soldering operations, wherein Figures FIG. 6A shows the temperature characteristic in successive soldering at intervals of three seconds, and Figures FIG. 6B shows the temperature characteristic in successive soldering at intervals of one ~~seconds~~ second. [[:]]

[0027] Figures FIGS. 7A, 7B and 7C show a first alternative embodiment ~~modification~~ of a tip, wherein Figures FIG. 7A is a front elevation, Figures FIG. 7B is a plane plan view and Figures FIG. 7C is a left-side view of the tip. [[:]]

[0028] Figures FIGS. 8A, 8B and 8C show a second alternative embodiment ~~another modification of the a~~ tip, wherein Figures FIG. 8A is a front elevation, Figures FIG. 8B is a plane plan view and Figures FIG. 8C is a left-side view of the tip. [[:]]

[0029] Figures FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view ~~showing structure~~ of a soldering tip of a conventional soldering iron, ~~;~~ and

[0030] Figures FIGS. 10A and 10B show temperature variation characteristics of a soldering tip of the conventional soldering iron of FIG. 9 in successive soldering operations, wherein Figures FIG. 10A shows the characteristic temperature in successive soldering at intervals of three seconds, and Figures FIG. 10B shows the characteristic temperature in successive soldering at intervals of one ~~seconds~~ second.

[0031] A Description ~~description~~ will be made with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein like reference characters and numerals refer to like parts. Figures 1A and 1B ~~shows~~ show a hand-held tweezer-type electric part handling device 1 according to an embodiment of the present invention. The device is used for installing (or mounting) and/or removing an electric part such as a resistor, capacitor, transistor, diode and IC. (Those electric or electronic parts are generally referred to electric parts.) The device 1 has a pair of legs 3 (3a and 3b) which are biased to open in a normal bias condition ~~of the device 1~~ such that the legs assume an open positions position as shown in Figures 1A and 2A ~~in a free condition~~ when no operating force is exerted ~~to~~ on the device 1. In a reverse bias condition of the device 1 as shown in Figure 2B ~~[[2A]]~~, the legs 3 are biased to close in a free condition when no operating force is exerted ~~to~~ on the device 1. Referring to Figures 1 and 2, Figures 1A, [[and]] 2A and 2B respectively show the device 1 in free condition, while Figure 1B and 2B ~~respectively show~~ shows the device 1 in an operated or manipulated condition where an operating force is exerted ~~to~~ on the device 1 by an operator or user as indicated by the direction arrow F1. In the following description, the left side of the device 1 as viewed in Figure 1 is referred to as a front side, while the right side is referred to as a rear side. The upper side in the Figure is referred to as an upper side of the device 1 and the lower side is referred to as a lower side of the device 1. The front side of the drawing is

referred to as a ~~front~~ fore side of the device 1, while the back side of the drawing is referred to as a back side of the device 1.

[0032] The electronic part handling device 1 ~~are~~ is provided with a thin housing 2 ~~which is thin and of [[the]] a shape convenient for grasping.~~ Sleeves 6 (6a and 6b) for respectively ~~holding~~ holding legs 3 (3a and 3b) are provided in the housing ~~[[1]]~~ 2. ~~Referring to~~ Of the sleeves 6, the upper side sleeve 6a is movable relative to the housing 2 while the lower side sleeve 6b is fixed on the housing 2 to be stationary during operation. The movable sleeve 6a is pivoted on the housing 2 by a supporting shaft or stud 7 to pivot around the supporting shaft 7. The movable sleeve 6a is formed with recesses A and B which serve as ~~manipulation grip~~ portions so that to be manipulated or operated by the operator may manipulate moveable sleeve 6a. The ~~manipulation portions~~ recesses A and B are formed to facilitate the manipulation of the movable sleeve 6a for the opening or closing of the legs 3 against biasing force.

[0034] As seen in ~~the Figure~~ Figures 1A and 2A, the legs 3 and tips 4 are aligned to be substantially straight relative to each other such that ~~[[a]]~~ the dead angle is small when the tip 4 ~~grasp grasps or clamp clamps~~ an electronic part, thereby improving efficiency of operation in handling a small electric part. In addition, the substantially straight structure of the legs 3 and tips 4 provides a narrow clamp angle and facilitates installation and removal of a part in a narrow area. The clamp angle is an angle made by the legs 3a and 3b and tips 4a and 4b when a part is held between the tips 4a and 4b.

[0035] A power supply ~~code~~ cord or wire 11 extends from the rear of the housing to supply electric power to the device 1 from a main control circuit (not shown in the Figure). The electric power supplied through the ~~code~~ cord or wire serves to energize the heater.

[0036] A biasing condition switching lever 8 is provided on the front surface of the housing 2 at ~~[[a]]~~ the rear side thereof. The switching lever 8 is fixed on a supporting shaft 9 to turn therewith around the axis of the supporting shaft 9 for switching the biasing condition of the legs 3 between a normal bias condition for biasing the legs 3 to open and a reverse bias condition for biasing the legs 3 to close. A switching lever knob 10 is provided at or close to a free end of the switching lever 8 so that the operator or user may turn the switching lever 8 by holding the knob 10. The switching lever knob 10 ~~is selectively registered~~ may be labeled with marks "N" and "R" to indicate a set biasing condition. The mark "N" represents that the lever is set to a normal

position for the normal biasing condition, and the mark "R" represents that the lever is set to a reverse position for the reverse biasing condition.

[0037] In the free condition in normal bias condition, the legs 3 assume an open positions position as shown in Figure 1A. When the operator depresses the ~~manipulation portion~~ recess A downward with a force F1 which overcomes the biasing force for opening the legs, a counterclockwise ~~moment~~ movement is caused on the movable sleeve 6a and movable leg 3a, and the movable leg 3a turns counterclockwise around the supporting shaft 7 to close the legs 3. The force F2 is a reactive force or drag exerted in the direction opposite to the direction of the force F1 with a same magnitude with that of the manipulation force F1. Thus, the operator may grasp the housing 2 and ~~applies~~ apply the forces F1 and F2 to the housing 2 and the movable sleeve 6a from the opposite sides to close the legs 3.

[0038] In the closed position, the ~~The~~ movable leg 3a and the stationary leg 3b make an included angle of 12° ~~as an included angle denoted as $\theta 1$ made by the legs 3a and 3b at their closed condition.~~ It is preferable that the included angle $\theta 1$ is 12° or in the vicinity of 12° preferably $10^\circ \sim 14^\circ$. If the included angle $\theta 1$ is smaller than 10° , the distance from the gripping position to the ~~ends~~ end of the tips 4 is so large that it is difficult for the operator to adjust the position of the tips 4 delicately. If the included angle $\theta 1$ is larger than 14° , the dead angle increases at the time of grasping or clamping the part and it is difficult to mount or remove an electronic or electric part in a narrow area. According to the present embodiment, as the legs 3 and tips 4 extend substantially straight and the included angle of the legs 3 at their closed condition is $10^\circ \sim 14^\circ$, most preferably 12° , delicate positioning of the tips 4 is available and the dead angle at the time of grasping an electronic part is small. ~~This to improve~~ improves the visibility of the electronic part while the operator handles, e.g. installs or removes, the part. In addition, it is easy to install and remove the part on and from a substrate in a narrow area.

[0039] When the switching lever 8 is turned from the position shown in Figure 1 to the position where the knob 10 is registered with the mark R, the device 1 is switched to the reverse bias condition. In the reverse bias condition, the legs 3 are closed in their free condition, and the legs 3 are opened when the operator ~~depress~~ depresses down the rear upper portion of the movable sleeve 6a, i.e. the ~~manipulation portion~~ recess B.

[0040] ~~Figure~~ Figures 2A and 2B show the internal structure of the housing 2 and the sleeves 6 of the electric part handling device 1. Figure ~~[[3]]~~ 2A shows the device 1 in the free and normal bias condition. Figure ~~[[3]]~~ 2B shows the device 1 in the free and reverse bias condition. As shown in those Figures, a socket 5, O-ring ~~[[3]]~~ 21 and a leg fixing chuck 22 are assembled in the interior of each sleeve 6, and the legs 3 are fixedly held by the sleeves 6 respectively with portions of the legs 3 fitted in the sockets 5. An LED 20 is provided on the rear downward position of the housing 2 to indicate whether the heaters built in the legs have been calibrated with respect to their heat or temperature.

[0041] A tension coil spring 12 is provided within the housing 2 at its vertically central and horizontally rearward position to bias the legs 3 to selectively open and close the legs 3. The coil spring 12 serves as a biasing member commonly used for biasing or urging the movable sleeve 6a and the movable leg 3a toward an opening direction in the normal bias condition and toward a closing direction in the reverse bias condition. A first spring support rod 13 is fixed on a link member 13a which, in turn, is fixed on a rear end of the movable sleeve 6a. The first spring support rod 13 extends horizontally in the direction from the front to the back of the housing. One end of the coil spring 12 is connected to the first spring support rod 13, with a circular end of the coil spring 12 being wound around the support rod 13 and the circular end being allowed to rotate around the rod 13. The other end of the coil spring 12 is connected to a second spring support rod 14 carried on ~~[[a]]~~ first and ~~[[a]]~~ second swingable links 15, with another circular end of the coil spring 12 being wound around the support rod 14 and the circular end being allowed to rotate around the rod 14. The second spring support rod 14 is connected to the first swingable link 15a at a front side end of the rod 14. The first swingable link 15a is fixed on a switching lever supporting shaft 9 to turn therewith. The second spring support rod 14 is connected to the second swingable link 15b at a back side end of the rod 14. In this way, the switching lever 8, the switching lever supporting shaft 9 and the swingable links 15 serve to switch the biasing condition of the coil spring 12.

[0042] Figures 3A, 3B and 3C show an outer appearance of the movable leg 3a which is to be inserted in the movable sleeve 6a. Figure 3A is a front elevation, Figure 3B is a ~~plane~~ plan view and Figure 3C is a left side view of the movable leg 3a. Figure 4A is a cross-section taken along IV-IV of Figure 3B. Figure 4B is an enlarged ~~fragmentary~~ cross-sectional view of a free

end of the tip. The movable leg 3a includes a movable tip 4a fitted in a front portion of a protective pipe 38 of stainless steel, and plug 32 of a synthetic resin inserted in the rear of the pipe 38. The tip 4a is made of a metal including copper or silver as a principal component. A fixing pipe 31 is provided on the middle portion of the protective pipe 38 at a position somewhat rearward thereof. The fixing pipe 31 is formed with a partially flat portion 31a. When the movable leg 3a is inserted in the movable sleeve 6a, the movable leg 3a is fixed in the movable sleeve 6a at the portion of the fixing pipe 31, with the flat portion 31a being fitted to corresponding flat portion (not shown) of the movable sleeve 6a to determine the rotational position of the movable leg 3a relative to the movable sleeve 6a. The plug 32 is formed with a flat plane 35 at its rear end to determine the rotational position of the movable leg 3a relative to the movable sleeve at the portion of the plug 32.

[0043] A heater 40 is provided within the protective pipe 38 at its front portion, with the heater 40 extending from ~~[[the]]~~ a forward portion to the rear of the tip 4a. The heater 40 is electrically energized to generate heat. A heater core 43 is provided at the radially central portion of the heater 40 with the ~~[[tip]]~~ front portion of the heater core 43 being embedded in the rear portion of the tip 4a connected with the movable leg 3a. The heater core 43 is made of a high heat-conductive material such as copper. A heater core cover 42 covers the exposed portion of the heater core 43. A heating coil 41 is wound around the heater cover 42. Thus, the heat generated by the heating coil 41 is conducted to the heater core 43 via the heater cover 42 and to the tip 4a on the movable leg 3a via the heater core 43 so that the tip 4a is heated up to 350°-400°C to serve as a soldering iron.

[0044] It is common with conventional soldering ~~iron~~ irons or electric part soldering and/or desoldering ~~device~~ devices that a heater is provided within a tip. In other words, the heat generated by a heater coil is conducted radially outward to heat the tip. In such conventional devices, it is likely that the diameter of the tip is large in size. Accordingly, it is necessary to bend the end portion of the tip inwardly in order to keep relatively small the distance from the heater to the end of the tip. If the distance is large, efficiency of heat conduction and heat response will be lowered. According to the present embodiment, the protective pipe 38 and tip 4a of the movable leg 3a are small in diameters so that heater 40 and tip 4a may take a straight

shape. With this structure, the included angle θ_1 of legs at their closed condition may be made relatively small, e.g. between 10° - 14° , most preferably 12° .

[0045] A heat sensor section 50 is provided at or in the vicinity of the radially central portion within the tip 4a and frontward from the heater 40 to detect the temperature at the end portion of tip 4a, with the output of the sensor section 50 being transmitted to a control circuit (not shown) which ~~control~~ controls the power supply to the heating coil 41 in response to the output of the sensor section 50. For example, when the temperature at the tip 4a is lower than a predetermined threshold value, the control circuit turns on the power supply. When the temperature at the tip 4a is higher than another predetermined threshold value, the control circuit turns off the power supply. Thus, the temperature at the tip is maintained within a given range. As an alternative, the threshold for the heat control may be a single value to maintain the temperature at a desired value.

[0046] The sensor section 50 includes a temperature sensor 52 at the end portion of the sensor section 50 where the sensor section is in contact with the movable tip 4a. ~~In the rear~~ Approximately rearward of the sensor 52 is provided a sensor insulating pipe 53 which forms a passage or conduit for the lead wire 51 for the sensor, and which also serves to keep the sensor 52 distant from or off the heater 40, preventing direct conduction of heat from the heater 40 to the sensor 52.

[0047] The sensor lead wire 51 and heater lead wire 45 are covered by the heater ~~insulating~~ insulating tube 44 and sensor lead insulating tube 46 and are led to the plug 32 via the interior of the protective pipe 38. Figure 5 is a cross section taken along V-V of Figure 3A to show the internal structure of a main part of the plug 32. The heater lead wire 45 is covered by a heater lead insulating tube 47, which in turn is covered by a sensor lead insulating tube 46 along with the sensor lead wire 51. Accordingly, the heater lead wire 45 and the sensor lead wire 51 are insulated from each other and from the protective pipe 38 as well. The rear ends of those lead wires are respectively inserted into and held by a heater wire receiving hole 36 and a sensor wire receiving hole 37 which are formed in the plug 32. The plug 32 is formed with a first opening or notch 33 and a second opening or notch 34 which are axially shifted from each other and which respectively reach the heater wire receiving hole 36 and the sensor wire receiving hole 37. Accordingly, the exposed portion 45a of the heater lead wire 45 is exposed through the first

opening or notch 33 and the exposed portion 51a of the sensor lead wire 51 is exposed through the second opening or notch 34.

[0049] It is to be noted that, in the present embodiment, the stationary leg 3b has the same structure as that of the movable leg 3a. Namely, a leg which has the structure of the movable leg 3a and is fixedly fitted in the stationary sleeve 6b, serves as the stationary leg 3b. In this way, the legs of the same structures are used for the movable leg 3a and the stationary legs leg 3b, thereby reducing the production cost.

[0052] When the electric part handling device 1 is used as the soldering iron, the temperature restoring characteristic in successive soldering is improved as compared with conventional soldering irons. In the conventional soldering irons, a heater is provided within a tip and a temperature sensor is provided close to the heater so that the temperature sensor is likely to detect the heat of the heating coil, ~~and~~ thereby deteriorating the accuracy of detection of the temperature at the soldering tip. ~~Especially, the~~ In particular, successive soldering at short intervals is affected significantly by the arrangement of the heater and heat sensor.

[0053] According to the present embodiment having the configuration ~~describe~~ described above, the temperature sensor 52 is less likely to directly detect the heat of the heating coil 41 so that the accuracy of detection of the heat at the tip 4 (4a or 4b) is improved. When the temperature sensor 52 detects a drop ~~[[of]]~~ in the temperature at the tip 4 and the heater 40 increases the amount of heat generation in response to the output of the ~~heat~~ heat sensor 52, the temperature at the heater 40 raises first and then the temperature at the tip 4 raises with a delay. At this time, the temperature sensor of the conventional soldering iron is affected by the heat of the heater 40 to output a signal corresponding to a temperature which is higher than the actual temperature of the tip 4, so that the tip 4 is likely to be heated to a level lower than that necessitated. In ~~contrast~~ contrast, in the electric part handling device 1 according to an the present embodiment of the present invention, the temperature sensor 52 is less likely to be affected by the heat of the heater 40 and can detect the temperature of the tip 4 with high accuracy so that the heater 40 is energized more and the temperature restoring characteristic is improved.

[0054] Figure ~~Figures~~ 6A and 6B show temperature change characteristics of the soldering tip of the embodiment in successive soldering operations, wherein Figure 6A shows the

characteristic in successive soldering at intervals of three seconds, and Figure 6B shows the characteristic in successive soldering at intervals of one ~~seconds~~ second. In the graphs of the Figures 6A and 6B, the ~~abscissa~~ x-axis represents elapsed time and the ~~ordinate~~ y-axis represents the temperature at the tip.

[0055] In the characteristic T11 shown in Figure 6A, soldering is not ~~effected~~ affected during the period when the temperature is maintained approximately at 400°C. For the period from 120 seconds to 250 seconds after the initiation of heating, the temperature oscillates with large ~~amplitude~~ amplitudes showing that soldering is ~~effected~~ affected during that period, with each cycle of the oscillation corresponding to a soldering operation. As seen in the Figure, the temperature at the tip 4 ~~temporary~~ temporarily lowers by approximately 100°C when soldering is made with the heat being supplied to the solder. The lowering of the temperature is detected by the temperature sensor 52 and a control circuit (not shown) will increase supply of electric power to the heating coil thereafter. As ~~the a~~ result, the amount of heat ~~generation~~ generated increases and the temperature of the tip 4 increases to, restores to and is maintained at a desired level.

[0056] Figure 6B shows the case where the successive solder is ~~effected~~ affected at an interval of one second. In that case, a phenomenon occurs where the temperature does not restore to a predetermined level as ~~seen in~~ shown by characteristic T12. This is because the subsequent next soldering operation is carried out and ~~lower~~ lowers the temperature before the temperature at the tip restores to the predetermined level. However, according to the embodiment of the present invention, the drop of the temperature is relatively small and is about 50°C from the desired level. ~~However~~ On the other hand, in the case of the conventional device of which characteristic T22 is shown in Figure 10B, the temperature drops by 80°C. This comparison ~~well~~ shows that the present embodiment is improved in the temperature restoring characteristic. According to the present embodiment which shows good temperature restoring characteristic, the efficiency of successive soldering operations is much improved.

[0059] For example, the shape of the end portion of the tip 4 may not be limited to the triangle in front elevation, but may take various shapes depending on the shapes and sizes of the parts to be held by the tips. Figures 7 and 8 show ~~variation~~ variations of the tips 4. Figures 7A and 8A are front elevations, Figures 7 B and 8B are ~~plane~~ plan views and Figures 7C and 8C are

left side elevations. The tip 64 provided on the leg 63 shown in Figure 7 is trapezoidal and tapered toward the end as seen in the ~~plane~~ plan view. The tip 74 provided on the leg 73 shown in Figure 8 has larger width at the end portion and has a trapezoidal shape but close to a rectangular shape slightly tapered toward the end as seen in the ~~plane~~ plan view.